

**I Would, But Ye would Not** (Matthew 23:37)

**Proposition:** It is my belief that this cry still rings out not only over the city of Jerusalem and over the people of Israel, but over the nation of Iran, China, Russia, India, France and over America. I believe it rings out over the city's of London, Paris, Moscow, Cairo, New York LosAngles, Dallas, Atlanta, Chattanooga, Trenton, Hixson, and Rossville. I believe it rings out to individuals as well. Jesus cries out to John, Bill, Tom, Dan, Sue and Mary. I want to draw draw out some truth from this verse concerning the willingness of Christ and the refusal of children.

**I. The Willingness of the Christ (I Would)**

- A. His Coming Indicates His Willingness
- B. His Character Implies His Willingness
- C. His Concern Insures His Willingness
- D. His Call Informs of His Willingness
- E. His Commission Instills His Willingness

**II. The Refusal of the Children (But Ye Would Not)**

- A. They Reject because of the Disposition of the Soul
- B. They Reject because of the Delight of Sin
- C. They Reject because of the Distraction of Survival
- D. They Reject because of the Deception of Satan
- E. They Reject because of a Disbelief of the Saviour

I Would, But Ye Would Not (Matt 23:3)

All over our nation today, in homes, and concert halls, and parks and sand-  
iraries and churches the old familiar  
— song America the Beautiful will  
be sounding. This beloved song detail-  
les the paramment beauty, abounding  
fruitfulness and inspiring virtues of our  
great land. The musical high light  
is the two Americas sung side by side  
at the highest pitch. The song seems to  
be calling to our attention: America!  
America! God shed his grace on thee.  
America! America! God mend thine every flaw

America! America! May God they gold  
refine! It is with that same pathos that we  
hear the Lord Jesus cry out to his own  
surrounding people. Oh Jerusalem Oh  
Jerusalem. he cries. What is the essences  
of his message to Jerusalem I would,  
but ye would not. It is my belief that  
this cry still rings out, not only over the

I. The Willingness of the Christ — Jesus  
was often in Jerusalem. A series of verses in

the Gospel of John focus in on his minis-  
try in this holy city. Yet despite all the teaching  
preaching and miracles very little saving work.

A. His Coming Indicates His Willingness  
His willingness to save is indicated by his



very presence. How often would it be the whole reason Jesus came was to save. Angles announced on a hill "For unto you is honesty" as a sign "Thou shalt call his name." Matt 18:11 America! It's not too late! He came. Oh sinner are you lost in sin and shame. Jesus came for you!

**B. His Character implies His Willingness**  
Jesus illustrates his character by using the picture of a mother hen. A mother hen that spreads its wings wide to receive all of her brood. By virtue of creation we are all his offspring. But virtue of redemption we can be made his sons! John 1:14 says his character is full of grace & truth. His grace is ever flowing his

**C. His Concern implies His Willingness**  
Why does a hen call its brood? Because it's aware of the danger. Maybe a hawk or a fox. She calls for the unaware and unknowing chicks to come! Our Lord Jesus sees the swift and sure judgment of God upon sin. He provides a refuge and in doing so exposes himself to the coming danger. Ex "Quail in forest fire! He exposed

**D. His Call informs of His Willingness**  
As the mother hen gives that certain Recognized "Cluck cluck" that calls her chicks to come, so Jesus' call lets us know he is willing to save. What is his familiar call? "Whoever" Jn 3:15-16 One author indicated that no broader gate could ever be erected

1) ...over the city of Jerusalem and over the people of Israel, but over the nation of Iran, China, Russia, India, France and over America. I believe it rings out over the city's of London, Paris, Moscow, Cairo, New York LosAngles, Dallas, Atlanta, Chattanooga, Trenton, Hixson, and Rossville. I believe it rings out to individuals as well. Jesus cries out to John, Bill, Tom, Dan, Sue and Mary. I want to draw draw out some truth from this verse concerning the willingness of Christ and the refusal of children.

2) ..little saving work. Such a refusal of so great a light of truth would surely incur a greater judgment. Seeing the coming judgment of Jerusalem and the slaughter that would ensue, he cries out with a broken a burdened heart: Oh Jerusalem, Oh Jerusalem! I would but ye would not! I would. We see the willingness of Christ!

3) Matthew 18:11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.

4) ...his mercy is as high as the heavens, his kindness is an endless supply! His character says, "I would, I'm willing to receive all that will come!"

5) ...He exposed himself to grave danger in order to provide a refuge for sinners! He exposed himself to the wikedness of men, to the terror and pain of the cross, and to the wrath of God all to open his wings wide to receive the vilest of sinners!

6) John 3:15-16 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**1)** Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

**2)** ...wrote a tract entitled "Jerusalem Sinners Saved." His argument was that these very people that had demanded the death of Jesus had to be the worst of sinners. And yet God gloriously saved 3000 of them on the day of Pentecost! Yes Christ will save you! Never say he is not willing. "How often I would!"

**3)** ...is always carried out, his will of desire often fails, because the free will of man will not yield." John 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. Sinners will not seek Him! Sinners will not come to Him Sinners will not trust in Him! But ye would not! Why?

**4)** ...sinful rebellion born in our hearts!

**5)** John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.



them "whosoever will" Richard Baxter in Jn 3:16.

E. His Commission distills His Willingness  
The great Commission statement in Luke 24:47 reads  
Beginning at Jerusalem. The very place where  
his teaching and preaching was rejected! his  
pleading was refused! The very people that cried  
for his execution, that cheered at his crucifixion.  
The willingness of Jesus to save sinners says go to  
them first. John Bunyan also wrote a tract. (2)

II. The Refusal of the Children - What  
a wonderful part of a verse "I would" understand  
able! Perceivable! Learnable! But how inconceivable!  
How confusing! How unimaginable! Ye would  
not! In Broadus writes "God's will of purpose is always" (3)

A. They Reject because of the Disposition  
of the Soul - All that populated the busy  
streets of Jerusalem that day, had one thing  
in common. They were descended of Adam.  
Rom 5:12 Wherefore... Ezekiel 18:4 the soul  
that sinneth, we reject the compassion of  
God sent by the prophets because of the inward  
innate sinful condition of our soul. Sinful rebellion (4)

B. They Reject because of the Delight of Sin  
No matter how we clean it, conform it, correct  
it, our sinful nature delights in the  
filth of Sin. Jn 3:19 (5) Sin is pleasurable  
to the senses. Delicious to the taste.  
Delightful to the sight. Desirable to the  
touch! Heb 12 tells us of the sin that so easily



hesers, why? Because we love it. We don't want to  
C. They Reject because of the Distractive of  
Sinners. Jesus cried over a city "Oh  
Jeru... that was hustling and hustling back  
and fourth, unconcerned for the dangers ahead  
The attractions of the world are to tantalizing  
and occupying to stop a moment and think upon  
their eternal destiny. Jesus gave the parable of  
the great supper and the ones invited made excuses.

D. They Reject because of the Deception  
of Satan. 2 Cor 4:3-4. All these delight  
is distraction and dispassion have their source  
in the deceiver. He blinds men to the conse-  
quences of sin. He whispers through family &  
friends that Christianity is a fanaticism.  
That you will be a loony if you surrender to Him.  
die witnesses to some, answered questions and get a <sup>refuse</sup> deny.

E. They Reject because of a Disbelief of the  
Saviour. Jn 3:17-18 - Jesus stood that  
day and cried out to a city to a people  
that should have fled to Him and fell at  
his feet, hailing him as their Messiah.  
But they would not. They would not be-  
lieve. They would not rest their hope of  
forgiveness of sin and eternal life on Him.

III. Close - America! He is willing!  
Chattanooga! He calls to you! Rossini!  
Danger is upon you! Billy! Janet! Frank!  
Susan! Run to the Saviour! Release you  
sin! Free at once

1) ...we don't want to give up our impurity, our dishonesty, our perversion and our drunkenness. Many a man has refused the glory of eternal life, for the here today, gone tomorrow, pleasures of sin.

2) 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

3) John 3:17-18 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.